# REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



ON THE RISE



# ON THE RISE

2015 - 2016

## REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



## A Message From the President

We are excited to present to you the 2015-16 Lee College Community Report. This is your community college, and you will find this report packed with information about all of the great things happening at Lee College. The report's theme, "On the Rise", is a tribute to the unprecedented growth of the College, which traces its origins back to 1934. What a legacy for this community and for its graduates. Not a day goes by that I do not meet someone who attended Lee College, had a family member who attended, or who worked at this wonderful institution. The pride this community has for Lee College is evident. It is amazing to see the ongoing support for such a premier institution of higher education. To cap it off, this fall's enrollment, at 7,280 students, is the highest ever achieved. Furthermore, our students are enrolling in more courses with the goal of completing their studies in a timely manner so they can transfer to a university or enter the workforce. This fall we increased our student contact hours by 19.5%, among the highest of all community colleges in the State of Texas.

As you peruse the report, you will see the national, state and regional recognitions Lee College has achieved. Our community engagement has been significantly enhanced by the acquisition of a Mobile Go Center on wheels, funded by the Pioneer Foundation. Through the rolling Mobile Go Center we can take Lee College to all 14 school districts in our service area as well as many other sites. The College's outstanding instructional programs, ranging from the Center for Workforce and Community Development to the stellar academic transfer and technical programs of study, set this institution of higher education apart from most other community colleges. The exceptional caliber of our faculty and staff has propelled Lee College to the forefront of cutting edge education. The tremendous support of the nine member Board of Regents and the President's Senior Cabinet has been invaluable in moving Lee College forward.

Lee College is all about making students' dreams come true. The Lee College Foundation, and the fabulous work of its Board, ensures that students have the resources to remain focused and engaged with their education. Simply put, the Foundation has made it possible for so many students to "finish what they started." The hard work of the Foundation Board led to the milestone of surpassing \$10 million for the first time in its history. Foundation funds have made going to college and earning a certificate or degree a reality for many students through scholarships and providing support for textbook costs.

Finally, if you have not stopped by Lee College recently, now is a good time. The campus remains beautiful and vibrant. The marvelous Performing Arts Center has hosted many excellent music, dramatic and cultural events. Rundell Hall has been completely renovated and is open for business, a 15,000 square foot addition to the Nursing facility is underway, renovations to the technical facilities on the main campus have started, and the McNair Center has a new 50,000 square foot expansion. This was possible due to the generous support of voters in their approval (72%) of a \$40 million general obligation bond in 2013. In spring 2016, the Lee College Education Center in South Liberty County began offering college classes for high school students and the adult population in the surrounding communities.

Wow! So many exciting things are happening.

Enjoy reading On the Rise: Lee College's Community Report for 2015-16.

Dr. Dennis Brown





## A Message From the Chairman

Since my election to Lee College's Board of Regents in 1998 and my subsequent election as Chairman in 2015, I have had the privilege of participating in many of Lee College's successes. And it's safe to say there have been many. But the last five years have been exceptional. We have seen continued growth in enrollment, overwhelming support from the community and industry, expansion of critical programs and the addition of our McNair facility as well as the Lee College Education Center of South Liberty County. Lee College is an essential component to the improvement of our region's quality of life as well its growth and economic diversification.

The Board of Regents has worked with Dr. Dennis Brown and all our dedicated employees to position Lee College as the education and training leader it is today. From being recognized by the American Association of Community Colleges and the Aspen Institute for student success, faculty innovation and overall excellence, to earning more than \$7.5 million in competitive grant funding and leading regional efforts to prepare new generations of skilled workers and technological innovators for high-demand careers, our over-



arching goal has been to provide an exemplary education to our students, actively support our partners in business and industry and provide opportunities for cultural enrichment and life-long learning to our communities. I believe we have done that. I couldn't be prouder of the work we have all been committed to on behalf of our students and the communities we serve. I have no doubt that together, Lee College will continue to thrive as an institution "On The Rise."

Ronn Haddox

## **Board of Regents**

#### **Ronald D. Haddox**

Chairman, Elected 1998

Mr. Haddox has his own law practice in Baytown and serves as chairman of the Baytown Industrial District Appraisal Board. A graduate of Lamar University and the South Texas College of Law, he is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Baytown Homeless Shelter and a lifetime member of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

#### Pete C. Alfaro

Vice Chairman, Flected 2006

Mr. Alfaro served on the Baytown City Council for 15 years, as mayor for 11 years and city councilman for 4 years, and is a professional engineer in the state of Texas. A past president of the Rotary Club of Baytown and active member of many community organizations, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering from the University of Texas.

#### **Mark Hall**

Secretary, Elected 2002

Mr. Hall is the owner of Carpethaus Flooring America and attended Lee College for two years before transferring to Sam Houston State University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in business administration. He has been a Baytown Kiwanian for 36 years, serving as president, and is past board chairman of Baytown Christian Academy. He and his wife Nancy are active members of Memorial Baptist Church.

#### **Wayne Gray**

Assistant Secretary, Elected 1986

Mr. Gray worked as a chemist for 23 years and was in the retail pharmacy business for 45 years. A lifelong Baytonian and graduate of the University of Houston, he is a member of the Community Resource Credit Union Board and has served as chairman of the Baytown Parks and Recreation Board since 1966.

#### **Dr. Keith Coburn**

Flected 1986

Dr. Coburn practiced dentistry in his native Baytown for 30 years and has worked as a consultant in the dental laboratory business for the last decade. He began his studies at Lee College as a high school student and attended the University of Texas and later graduated from the University of Texas Dental Branch.

#### **Weston Cotten**

Flected 2015

Mr. Cotten is a lifelong resident of the Baytown area, where he continues to practice law and served for 18 years on the board of the Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District. He is a graduate of Lee College and Stephen F. Austin University.

#### **Mark Himsel**

Elected 2002

Mr. Himsel was employed by Amegy Bank for more than 25 years and now continues his career in the banking industry as vice president of Fiserv Solutions. He is a graduate of Lee College, where many members of his family have also attended, and Sam Houston State University.



From left to right: Dr. Dennis Brown, Weston Cotten, Dr. Keith Coburn, Mark Himsel, Mark Hall, Judy Jirrels, Pete C. Alfaro, Ronald D. Haddox, Susan Moore-Fontenot, Wayne Gray

#### **Judy Jirrels**

Elected 2004

Mrs. Jirrels is a second-grade teacher in the Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District. She is a graduate of Lee College and the University of North Texas, where she majored in fashion merchandising.

#### **Susan Moore-Fontenot**

Elected 1988

Ms. Moore-Fontenot completed 38 years in public education before retiring as director of personnel for the Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District. A graduate of Lee College, she earned a bachelor's degree from Sam Houston State University and holds a master's degree in educational supervision from Lamar University. She has been an adjunct instructor for two community colleges in the Gulf Coast area for over 10 years and serves as an independent contractor in the area of Human Resources.

#### President's Senior Cabinet

#### **Dr. Dennis Brown**

President

#### **Dr. Christina Ponce**

Executive Vice President

#### **Steve Evans**

Vice President of Finance & Administration

#### **DeDe Griffith**

*Vice President of Instruction (interim)* 

#### **Debi Jordan**

Vice President of Workforce and Corporate Partnerships

#### **Dr. Donnetta Suchon**

Vice President of Student Affairs

#### **Layton Childress**

Dean of Applied Sciences

#### **Dr. Michael Fleming**

Executive Director of Institutional Research, Effectiveness & Planning

#### **David Jaroszewski**

Dean of Academic Studies (interim)

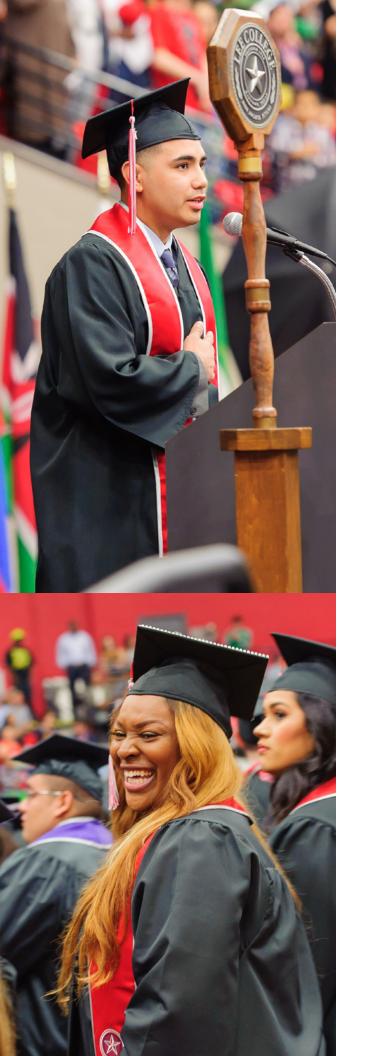
#### **Dr. Carolyn Lightfoot**

Chief Information Officer

#### **Donna Zuniga**

Dean of the Huntsville Center





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## NATIONAL, STATE & REGIONAL RECOGNITION

Since its founding more than 80 years ago, Lee College has been the region's primary driver for the development of an educated and skilled workforce. The institution has also committed itself to the enhancement of the cultural and civic fabric of the communities it serves. With the leadership of the Board of Regents and the dedication of faculty and staff, Lee College has consistently produced talented graduates who are prepared to seize every personal and professional opportunity for success. This level of collective achievement requires a tremendous amount of collaborative effort. Unsurprisingly, leading media outlets and organizations across Texas and around the country have taken notice.

Among the more than 1,100 community colleges in the United States, Lee College has continually stood out for exceptional academic and technical programs, initiatives to increase student success and expand college access, the steady growth of its diverse student body, and the high economic value of its degrees and certificates. The high level of praise and exposure has only confirmed for the nation, state, and region what was evident to the Lee College community decades ago: something special is happening in higher education and workforce training in Baytown.

## AFTER TAKING TOP PRIZE IN 2015 FOR STUDENT SUCCESS, LEE COLLEGE NAMED A 2016 AACC AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE TRIPLE-FINALIST

After earning national recognition as the winner of the 2015 American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Award of Excellence for Student Success, Lee College accomplished another rare feat among the more than 1,200 member colleges eligible for the awards each year: selection as a finalist for the 2016 AACC Awards of Excellence in three separate categories.

The Exemplary Board/CEO finalist award recognized the collaboration and working relationship between President Dr. Dennis Brown and the Board of Regents for promoting effectiveness in governance. Treva Brown-Askey, chairwoman of Developmental Education, was a finalist in the Faculty Innovation category for demonstrating leadership in the development and implementation of a campus program that had a positive impact on the learning experience for students. The Outstanding College/Corporate Partnership category recognized the collaboration between Lee College and ExxonMobil for demonstrating success in advancing the mission of the institution, economic prosperity of the community and learning excellence.

Lee College won the 2015 AACC Award of Excellence for Student Success for its work to engage the entire campus and community in creating a college-going culture that ensures a successful student experience from high school through higher education.

## HELPING MORE STUDENTS EARN STEM CREDENTIALS & PREPARE FOR LASTING CAREERS

Lee College was awarded a \$750,000 grant from Educate Texas to lead a regional consortium that aims to increase the number of underrepresented students earning science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) credentials and entering the petrochemical workforce.

As one of only five institutions of higher education in Texas selected to receive grant funds for the Texas Regional STEM Degree Accelerator initiative, Lee College will serve as the Gulf Coast lead institution and coordinate the efforts of a consortium consisting of two-year colleges, four-year colleges, K-12 school districts and workforce partners. The consortium has examined regional workforce data and identified ideal pathways in which to achieve two major goals: redesigning gateway courses in STEM majors to ensure alignment with workforce needs in the petrochemical industry, and providing professional development for faculty to improve teaching and learning in STEM fields.

The STEM Accelerator project is developed in accordance with priorities for education and workforce outlined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Texas Workforce Commission. The grant is funded through the Helmsley Charitable Trust, Greater Texas Foundation, Council for Regional Economic Expansion and Educational Development, JPMorgan Chase and the W.W. Caruth, Jr. Foundation. It is the first time the Helmsley Trust has ever funded a project outside New York State.

#### **RANKINGS**

2<sup>ND</sup>

In the nation for contributing to the economic success of graduates

#### **BROOKINGS INSTITUTION**

A non-profit organization based in Washington, D.C., that brings together leading international experts in government and academia to conduct in-depth research on a range of public policy issues 150

Community Colleges in the Country

#### **ASPEN INSTITUTE**

A Washington, D.C.-based international non-profit organization that awards the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence to recognize high achievement and performance among more than 1,000 community colleges across the United States

6<sup>TH</sup>

In the nation for enrollment growth among public two-year colleges our size

– Community College Weel

50

Best Value Community Colleges

– ValueColleges

10

Top 10 best community colleges in the country (The only community college in Texas to make the Top 10!)

- SmartAsse

50

Top 50 best community colleges in the country (That's 1,100 colleges!)

– WalletHub

### **AWARDS & HONORS**

#### **FINALIST**

2016 AACC Awards of Excellence for Exemplary Board/ CEO, Faculty Innovation and Outstanding College/ Corporate Partnership

#### WINNER

2015 American Association of Community Colleges Award of Excellence for Student Success

#### **WINNER**

Lee College Veterans Center 2015 ExxonMobil Refiner of the Year Award

#### **FINALIST**

2015 American Association of Community Colleges
Award of Excellence for Exemplary Board/CEO

#### POINTS OF DISTINCTION

Lead institution in the regional Community College Petrochemical Initiative (CCPI)

lamed a national 2015 STEM Jobs Approved College

by Victory Media

Certified as a National Achieving The Dream Leader College Designated a National 2015 Military Friendly® School

by Victory Mea



## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

## A REBORN RUNDELL HALL, EXPANDED MCNAIR CENTER & NEW CENTER IN SOUTH LIBERTY COUNTY

Hundreds of community members, friends and supporters joined the Board of Regents and Lee College family to celebrate the completion of three major campus construction projects that enhanced and expanded the college's footprint in its expansive service area: the renovation of Rundell Hall, expansion of the McNair Center and opening of the Lee College Education Center - South Liberty County.

First opened in 1951 and closed in 2006 due to old age and disrepair, historic Rundell Hall was reborn in January 2015 after a \$9.9 million renovation funded through a bond overwhelmingly approved by voters in 2013. Though original elements like the terrazzo floors and marble façade of the building were preserved, the project transformed Rundell into a space beyond expectation: a modern and convenient one-stop shop for student services on the first floor, with administrative offices and a testing center on the second.

The \$12 million expansion of the McNair Center, conveniently located and easily accessible along Interstate 10, was completed in January 2016. The project - also part of the 2013 bond package - created an additional 50,000 square feet of instructional space where students receive hands-on training with the latest technology to prepare for high-paying careers in the growing petrochemical and construction industries. The expanded center now houses programs in machining, millwright, welding and pipefitting within a modern industrial environment that closely resembles what students will find upon entering the workforce.

The ribbon was cut on the Lee College Education Center - South Liberty County in May 2016, bringing high-quality collegiate education to a rural community that had long been underserved. Funded through a \$847,000 grant from the Greater Texas Foundation and more than \$191,000 each from the Dayton and Liberty community development corporations, the South Liberty County education center offers programming for all ages. The Dual Credit Institute allows students in five neighboring school districts to earn a college credential by the time they graduate high school, and a variety of workforce and community education courses are also available - from a new emergency medical technician program to Kids at College summer camps, classes for senior adults and customized corporate training for business and industry.

## UPDATE OF THE 2013 BOND REFERENDUM

**Total Approved: \$40 M** Approved by a 3-1 voter margin

#### **Major Projects Completed**

- Renovation of Rundell Hall and construction of new parking lot at the Performing Arts Center
- Expansion of McNair Center on Interstate 10 for technical & industrial training programs

#### **Coming Soon**

- Renovation of technical buildings
- 16,130 square foot renovation and new construction of Nursing & Allied Health Facilities



#### COMMITTED TO COMMUNITY SERVICE: STUDENTS, FACULTY & STAFF GIVE BACK

Lee College students, faculty and staff are deeply committed to serving the community in which they live and learn every day - from spending time with children and senior citizens, to planting trees at nature preserves, cleaning up the environment, and raising money and awareness in support of numerous humanitarian causes.

Often, the opportunity to give back also helps students take their classroom exploration into the real world. The Nursing Division, for example, completed more than 1,200 hours of community service in the 2015-16 school year in part by teaching kids how to practice good health and hygiene practices to mitigate the spread of germs during flu season. In the Honors Program, students augmented lessons on humanity and nature with service at the Eddie V. Gray Wetlands Center in Baytown and the Exploration Green tree nursery in Clear Lake. And the Runnin' Rebel Basketball Team was a fixture at local elementary schools throughout the year, entertaining students and teachers alike with their skills on the court and encouraging the kids to always respect themselves and others.

#### BEYOND BAYTOWN: THE LEE COLLEGE SERVICE AREA

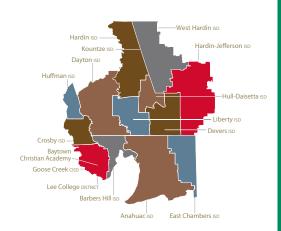
15

Independent School Districts Served 3

**Counties Served** 

19

Zip Codes That Fall Within That Area





#### REACHING STUDENTS WHERE THEY ARE WITH THE MOBILE GO CENTER

As the community college serving a designated area of more than 220,000 residents, Lee College is dedicated to ensuring every constituent has access to a quality education and the opportunity to advance their careers and enrich their lives. On board the Mobile Go Center – a 42-foot trailer acquired in 2015 with a \$165,000 grant from the Texas Pioneer Foundation and towed by a Dodge Ram truck – students can start the process of pursuing a Lee College degree or certificate at anytime, from anywhere.

The Mobile Go Center is fully equipped with everything a prospective student needs to explore program options, register for classes and apply for financial aid: high-speed Internet, satellite dishes, remote printers, laptops and even LCD televisions displaying helpful messages from the main campus. Plans are in place for the truck and trailer to pull into community events, stadiums and festivals, offices and work sites, and even apartment complexes and residential neighborhoods - wherever someone can benefit from a Lee College education.





## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

#### BRINGING ARTS, CULTURE & ENTERTAINMENT TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Cultivating the right mix of shows and concerts at the Performing Arts Center is a thoughtfully executed process. Since its opening in 2009, the PAC has demonstrated its capacity for showcasing top-notch talent with every performance - regularly filling the 700-seat main hall for high-profile acts like the Texas Tenors, Midtown Men, Asleep At The Wheel and American Idol finalist Casey Abrams.

As the only arts facility of its kind in eastern Harris County, the 58,000-square-foot center signature has garnered rave reviews from artists and audiences alike. It is also the home venue for the Baytown Concert Band, Baytown Community Chorus and Baytown Symphony Orchestra, and the venue of choice for student competitions and showcases of all kinds.

#### SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED OUR COUNTRY

Since its founding in 2011, the Lee College Veterans Center has been a source of support and community for more than 400 former service members seeking higher education and new civilian careers - drawing distinction as a national Military Friendly School each year and earning the 2015 Refiner of the Year Award from ExxonMobil.

Student-veterans and their dependents are provided academic advising that includes development of individual education plans; advising about educational benefits, like the G.I. Bill and Hazlewood exemption, and the certification process; and moral and mental health support that includes career guidance, peer tutoring and individualized counseling.

Under the leadership of disabled U.S. Army Veteran and certified peer facilitator Ehab Mustafa, the center also works to ensure military students are connected with prospective employers through special job fairs, workshops and networks for internships and other opportunities. It's all about keeping the promise that battle buddies have made to each other for generations: no matter what happens, you will never be alone.



#### HUNTSVILLE CENTER CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF GROWTH IN CORRECTIONAL EDUCATION

In his first 3 years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Luke Clyde Teixeira was far from a model inmate: he racked up 25 different disciplinary cases and didn't take much time to consider how his actions affected himself or those around him. Enrolling in the Lee College Huntsville Center sparked a total transformation; suddenly, he understood the importance of critical thinking and experienced firsthand the power of treating others with dignity and respect.

Teixeira - now a Lee College graduate with associate degrees in Business and Humanities who was chosen to serve as a tutor to his peers behind bars - is one of hundreds of students who have taken classes and earned associate degrees and certificates through Lee College while still incarcerated. Started in 1966 with an agreement between the college and TDCJ to bring education to prison units in and around Huntsville, the Huntsville Center has grown by leaps and bounds to become one of the largest correctional educational programs in the United States with more than 1,200 students actively enrolled. Offenders in six prison units and one private state prison can earn Lee College degrees and certificates in a wide range of fields and disciplines - from welding technology and automotive mechanics, to horticulture, culinary, cabinet-making and microcomputer applications.

TDCJ data shows that 97 percent of offenders in the system will be released back into society at some time, and those who receive an education while still incarcerated are significantly less likely to return to prison. As a leader in correctional education for more than 50 years, the Lee College Huntsville Center has played a significant role in reducing recidivism by transforming inmates into scholars and responsible citizens capable of contributing to society.





## STUDENT AND PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## DEMAND FOR SKILLED WORKERS & TECH-SAVVY GRADS SPURS STEM PROGRAM GROWTH

As science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education has become a national priority, there has also been great regional demand for skilled workers to fill thousands of available technical positions. Lee College faculty, staff and administrators have responded in myriad ways: strengthening their commitment to closely guide STEM and technical students in their academic journeys by creating as many opportunities as possible for hands-on, field-based and experiential learning; encouraging student involvement in meaningful undergraduate research projects and professional internships; and pursuing grant funds and other resources to modernize and expand laboratories with cutting-edge equipment. Outreach has even been extended to students in local K-12 school districts - the college partnered with Junior Achievement to host the Inspire career exploration event for thousands of eighth-graders, and regularly offers STEM summer camps for children as young as 6 years old.

Programs in engineering, chemistry and geology have seen enrollments steadily increase – the number of students enrolled in the environmental science program has doubled in the last 5 years alone – and unprecedented growth in petrochemical and construction industry training programs have stretched classrooms and laboratories to their limits. An additional 50,000 square feet of instructional space at the expanded McNair Center along Interstate 10 will help accommodate the influx of students in the machining, millwrighting, pipefitting, and welding programs.

#### LEE COLLEGE DEBATERS EARN THIRD CONSECUTIVE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP, HOST NATIONAL TOURNEY

In a feat previously unseen in collegiate debate, the Mendoza Debate Society at Lee College earned its third consecutive International Public Debate Association (IPDA) National Community College Debate Championship – and Director of Forensics Joe Ganakos was named the 2016 IPDA Bennett Strange Coach of the Year.

The honors were announced at the 2016 IPDA National Championship Tournament and Convention hosted on the Lee College campus. Nearly 500 competitors from well-known and prestigious collegiate debate programs across the country participated.

The Lee College Debate Team was the IPDA National Championship Tournament Community College Champions – delivering the best performance in the tournament's 19-year history – and the Season Long Community College Champions, capping off a standout regular season in which the team amassed more than 150 awards and several members reached national prominence for their individual accomplishments. The duo of captains Kyle Diamond and Rigo Ruiz won the 2015-16 IPDA Team Division National Championship - setting an all-time record for points earned in team debate - and Lee College debaters also set an all-time points record en route to winning the IPDA Team Squad National Championship.

Overall, the Mendoza Debate Society at Lee College was the top-ranked debate program in Texas for the 2015-16 IPDA season and proved competitive against some of the top universities in the nation.

## STUDENTS SELECTED FOR PRESTIGIOUS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AND MAJOR ACADEMIC CONFERENCES

Students in the Lee College Honors Program earned selection this year to a national academic team and presented original research alongside undergraduate writers from across North America, while students from the Mexican-American Studies and Puente Project programs were featured at a regional conference that explored Chicano history and identity.

Micah Bullard, a dual-credit student who graduated from the college in May 2016, was one of just 50 students in the United States to be named a Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team Silver Scholar. The program recognizes high-achieving students at two-year colleges who demonstrate academic excellence, intellectual rigor, leadership and service that extends beyond the classroom to benefit society.

Seven students were selected to attend the National Undergraduate Literature Conference at Weber State University in Utah: Matthew Broussard, who presented on "The Hobbit;" Brandon Cooper, who presented on "Seven;" Hunter McHugh, who presented on "Bernice Bobs Her Hair;" Brenna Sallee, who presented on "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof;" Miranda Sallee, who presented on "Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic;" Michael Smith, who presented on "Lord of the Flies;" and Siavash Zamirpour, who presented on "Giovanni's Room."

More than a dozen students in the Mexican-American Studies and Puente Project programs were invited to present at the 2015 National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies Tejas Foco Conference. Many participated in a panel discussion about Baytown history and the experiences of generations of Mexican immigrants and Mexican-Americans who lived in the city.

#### CREATING GLOBAL CITIZENS: STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM REVIVED

For Lee College students who have dreamed of traveling beyond U.S. borders to explore different countries and cultures, the revival of the Study Abroad program — dormant on campus for 7 years — presented an opportunity that couldn't be missed.

An initiative of International Education, Study Abroad allows students to explore the world while also earning academic credit for their Lee College degree. The first trip of the program's new era whisked more than a dozen students away in summer 2015 for 10 days in Great Britain, Ireland and Wales. The second trip, taken in summer 2016, was an 8-day exploration of the Central American nation of Belize. Trips to China and Costa Rica are planned for summer 2017.

As part of their participation, Study Abroad students had to complete intensive English, Humanities, History and/or Kinesiology classes that began weeks before their departure and provided a theoretical foundation for their journeys. The courses were specially designed to pair with notable sites the students would tour while away, helping them forge a deeper mental and emotional connection with everything they saw and touched.

Upon their return to campus, the students developed presentations about their experiences to share with the community. Many spoke passionately about how their travels had transformed their perspectives on themselves and the world in which they live, and expressed their generosity for Lee College providing the chance to travel abroad.

#### NEW SOCIAL JUSTICE ORGANIZATIONS SET SIGHTS ON CHANGING CAMPUS CULTURE

Lee College students wanted a more inclusive campus climate in which everyone felt welcome and able to succeed — so they took matters into their own hands, forming three new organizations focused on social justice, and joining together for a trip to a Louisiana plantation in spring 2016 to learn more about slavery and the dark heart of America's past.

Made up primarily of Latino students with membership extended to students of all ethnicities, the MAS Raza Collective aims to educate and improve the community through the power of activism and the empowerment of marginalized groups. Since its inception, the collective has hosted numerous events to raise awareness about the unique culture and lasting contributions made by Mexican-Americans for generations.

The Reaching Excellence Against Limitations (R.E.A.L.) organization aims to create positive change for black males at Lee College. The group recognizes four pillars: educating the black male on who he was, is and can be; empowering the black male voice on campus and helping put their thoughts in action; enhancing member skills to form a strong foundation from which they can build their futures; and creating a campus climate that helps increase retention rates for black male students.

OHANA is an organization that advocates for students who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer/questioning (LGBTQ+) and their allies. The group works toward creating a more accepting and safe campus environment for all people, and brings attention to LGBTQ+ issues within the community.

## STUDENT SUCCESS BY THE NUMBERS

tudent Enrollment (Fall 2015)

5%

Increase from previous year

1,341

Dual-Credit Enrollment (Fall 2015)

33%

Increase from previous year





## STUDENT AND PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

#### CREAM OF THE CROP: HIGH ACHIEVERS AND INDUCTEES INTO THE LEE COLLEGE HALL OF FAME

MICAH BULLARD, 2016 COCA-COLA SCHOLAR: A dual-credit student and May 2016 graduate, Bullard was named as a 2016 Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team Silver Scholar. Competing against more than 5,000 applicants nationwide, Bullard was selected as just one of 50 recipients of the prestigious award for demonstrating academic excellence, intellectual rigor, leadership and service that extends beyond the classroom to benefit society. He is also a past recipient of the Dorothy Cooke Hayes Outstanding Honors Student Award, and a recognized Honors Program completer.

SIAVASH ZAMIRPOUR, 2014-15 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE: A standout Biology major who was also honored as the top chemistry student at Lee College, Zamirpour graduated from IMPACT Early College High School in 2016 as valedictorian of his class - after completing two Lee College degrees, earning a perfect score on his SAT and securing admission to Harvard College at Harvard University. He is an Honors Program completer, member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and past recipient of numerous college awards for his academic achievements. After conducting a yearlong ecological survey of Follets Island with instructor David Rosen, Zamirpour co-authored two research papers published in scientific journals.

JEREMY GALLAGHER, 2015-16 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE: Gallagher is a pre-engineering major, Honors Program completer and leader of several organizations both on and off campus. Known as a hard-working and responsible student who can always be called upon to offer help and assistance to others, Gallagher is a problem-solver who generously devotes his time to a variety of community service activities - volunteering with Bay Area Pet Adoptions, the Pasadena Fire Department, the Houston Police Department Food Drive, the Monica Boyd Foundation Dinner, Junior Achievement, the Eddie Gray Wetlands Center and many more.

HUNTER MCHUGH, 2015-16 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE: An English major and president of the Student Government Association for the 2015-16 school year, McHugh has been highly active in scholarly and extracurricular activities at Lee College. Intellectually curious and open-minded, she has participated in both Study Abroad trips to the British Isles and Belize and tirelessly represented the student body at countless events and on various committees, including serving on the President's Cabinet and participating in focus groups during the college's reaccreditation process. McHugh is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and worked as a tutor at the Lee College Writing Center, a position for which she was nominated by two Honors Program instructors.

ADRIANA REZAL, 2015-16 BIOLOGY AWARD RECIPIENT: An IMPACT Early College High School graduate who also earned recognition as the top biology student at Lee College, Rezal excelled in both English and biology while maintaining a 4.0 GPA throughout her studies. She is an Honors Program completer and has conducted an undergraduate project in biology in which she worked independently in all phases of her research. Rezal has also been selected to present original research at academic conferences around the country for talented undergraduate students.

#### STUDENT-ATHLETES EXPERIENCE SUCCESS ON AND OFF OF THE COURT

Despite early injuries that threatened to derail the 2015-16 volleyball season when it had hardly begun, the Lee College Lady Rebels fought their way to a 22-10 overall record and regional and conference recognition for its high-performing student-athletes.

Passion for and commitment to their sport led six Lady Rebels to NJCAA All-Region and All-Conference awards. Sophomore Alondra Bautista and freshman Madison Otis earned First Team honors; sophomore Allie Deese and freshman Shelby Wade earned a spot on the Second Team; and sophomores Julia Mauer and Bethany Covington earned Honorable Mention.

Between visiting with students at local elementary schools and working hard to earn their Lee College degrees, three Runnin' Rebels also earned transfer scholarships to continue their collegiate basketball careers at the Division I level. Standout sophomore guard Tim Coleman will play for the University of Utah, while sophomore shooting guard Branden Jenkins and forward Duop Reath will become Louisiana State University Tigers.

And for all the effort they put in on the volleyball and basketball courts, Rebel and Lady Rebel student-athletes are also putting in hard work in the classroom - and they have the high GPAs to prove it. Ten volleyball players and two basketball players were honored by the Lee College Board of Regents as Class Act Athletes for achieving a 3.0 or higher while taking at least 12 credit hours.





## **WORKFORCE & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

#### LEADING THE REGION IN TRAINING THE FUTURE PETROCHEMICAL & CONSTRUCTION WORKFORCE

Billions' of dollars in plant expansions in Baytown and Mont Belvieu and the steady retirement of long-time employees have significantly increased demand for skilled workers in the petrochemical and construction industries. Needing a strong educational partner to help fill a robust pipeline of candidates for thousands of high-paying positions, ExxonMobil turned to Lee College to lead the Community College Petrochemical Initiative (CCPI): a collaborative project between the nine Texas Gulf Coast community colleges to recruit, train and place new generations of petrochemical and industrial construction workers into available jobs throughout the region.

With Lee College at the helm and more than \$1.8 million in grant funding from ExxonMobil since the project began, CCPI colleges have awarded scholarships to eligible students; shared technical training curricula and best practices for student recruitment and instruction; and specifically targeted military veterans and women to train for high-demand, skilled trade positions. In the process, CCPI has earned national recognition as a model of the success that can be achieved when industry and education unite to support workforce development in the community they serve.

Lee College is also engaged in workforce development partnerships with several civic and economic development organizations throughout the Houston region and beyond, including the Baytown West Chambers County Economic Development Foundation; East Harris County Manufacturers Association; Economic Alliance Houston Port Region; and the Greater Houston Partnership's Upskill Houston initiative to increase the number of Houstonians trained for "middle skills" careers in the petrochemical, construction and healthcare industries.

#### **WORKFORCE PROGRAMS TARGET UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS FOR CAREER TRAINING**

A Lee College education opens doors - and it can also break down barriers that keep members of underserved communities from pursuing well-paying skilled trade and technical careers.

Through funding from the H1-B Gulf Coast Ready to Work Grant awarded to the college by the U.S. Department of Labor, the workforce center is providing the long-term unemployed and underemployed with industrial crafts training in several high-demand and high-growth fields: welding, electrical, millwright, instrumentation, pipefitting, process technology refresher, first-line supervisor and project management. Tuition in the program is free to eligible participants, and those who successfully complete the training earn credentials from the National Center for Construction Education and Research recognized by companies throughout the petrochemical and construction industries. The first class of graduates earned their certificates and credentials in May 2016.

The special focus on industrial training also extends to women, who have long been underrepresented in skilled trades. As the lead institution in the Community College Petrochemical Initiative, Lee College partnered with other Texas Gulf Coast colleges to host a Women in Industry Conference spotlighting career options in the petrochemical industry. The daylong event brought hundreds of women to the historic Hotel Galvez in Galveston to hear actual on-the-job experiences from female professionals already working in the field.

#### HIGH-TECH FACILITIES & NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED CURRICULUM ATTRACT INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS

Companies looking for customized training for incumbent employees often turn to the Center for Workforce and Community Development at Lee College, which provides a wide range of support for corporate clients: state-of-the-art learning facilities, specialized programs of study delivered in a lecture or lab setting, professional development and even skills gap analyses and employee assessments. By maintaining a rapid-response orientation and sharp focus on industry and regional trends, the center's Department of Corporate Services is able to help client organizations achieve greater growth and stability - all while creating and retaining jobs, implementing new innovations and increasing competitiveness and profitability.

Among the most sought-after corporate offerings at the workforce center are several FOUNDATION Fieldbus-certified training programs, which teach students how to build and configure fieldbus segments and devices used in manufacturing industries from petrochemical to pharmaceutical. The on-campus Fieldbus Center is one of only eight certified training sites in the world.

#### KIDS AT COLLEGE PROGRAM PROVIDES LOCAL YOUTH A FUN & ENRICHING LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Local parents looking for ways to keep their children aged 5-17 years engaged in meaningful educational experiences over the summer can turn to the "Kids at College" summer camp program of fered through the Lee College Center for Workforce and Community the College Center for Workforce and CenterDevelopment. Each year, campers choose from a wide variety of classes and activities where they can explore everything from future career options and STEM topics, to arts and crafts, cooking, brain-training and athletics. All camps and courses are taught by college faculty, industry professionals and subject-matter experts, and held at the main campus in Baytown and Lee College Education Center – South Liberty County to give participants an early glimpse into college life. Class sizes are also kept small to ensure a great learning experience where youth can make connections with their peers and instructors on a personal, individual level.

#### SENIOR ADULT & TRAVEL PROGRAM HOSTS BUS TRIPS & INTERNATIONAL EXCURSIONS

Whoever coined the phrase "over the hill" was surely never involved with Lee College Senior Adult & Travel. The program keeps those aged 50 and older engaged and energized through instructional classes, workforce and career training, sponsorship of social and service organizations like the Scarlett Ya-Yas Red Hat Society, and special events. More than 1,500 adults from Crosby to Cove have participated in the program in the last several years: recent retirees looking to stay busy as they enter a new phase of life, singles looking to meet new friends and make connections in the community and couples looking to indulge their spirit of adventure together.

Among the most popular activities offered through Lee College Senior Adult & Travel are excursions to interesting destinations both close to home and abroad. Each year, the program sets a lengthy schedule for international travel and bus trips around the region that whisk dozens of participants away to explore world-class tourist attractions; attend sporting events and theatrical and musical performances; learn firsthand about different cultures and traditions; and experience history come to life.

In 2016, Lee College Senior Adult & Travel program participants enjoyed journeys along the Grand Canyon Railway and Verde Canyon Railway, a train trip through the Canadian Rockies, a rediscovery of Cuba and a jaunt through France complete with a river cruise.





#### **FACULTY & STAFF AWARDS**

**2016 Instructional Technology Council Outstanding Support and Services Award** 

Dr. LeAnn Alison, Director of the Quality Enhancement Plan

2016 National Institute for Staff and **Organizational Development (NISOD) Excellence Awards** 

Paul Allen, Huntsville Center Jason Turner, Huntsville Center Vera Walker, Student Support Services

2015 Texas Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (TAHPERD) College Administrator of the Year

> Graeme Cox, Kinesiology & Wellness Division

2015 John and Suanne Roueche **Excellence Awards** 

Jeannie Colson, Librarian Marissa Moreno, Lead Counselor

2016 National Alliance of Two-Year College Athletic Administrators **Hall of Fame** 

& Wellness Division

## FACULTY & STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

#### 'ASK ME. I CARE' CAMPAIGN PUTS SERVICE AT THE FOREFRONT

With buttons pinned to collars and lapels, banner ads on plasma screens and signs placed on desks, Lee College faculty and staff sent a new message to everyone on campus: "Ask us, we care." Designed to ensure and promote excellent customer service, the college-wide campaign encourages students to ask any employee for help, and reminds employees to do whatever it takes to find the answers and support every individual student's need to be successful. The initiative also tasks the campus community to take special notice when they see someone providing great customer service — such as giving a smile and a shoulder to a student having a difficult moment, or guiding a lost student around campus — and submit their name for recognition. Nominees were reviewed each month by a special committee, and all honorees for were treated to a recognition luncheon.

#### 'ASK ME. I CARE' WINNERS

#### 2015

#### JANUARY

Mike Spletter **Student Activities** 

#### **FEBRUARY**

Graeme Cox

Kinesiology & Wellness

#### MARCH

Gracie Luna

**Outreach Services** 

#### APRII

Melissa Valencia

**Outreach Services** 

#### MAY

**Ehab Mustafa** 

**Veterans Center** 

#### IIINF

Iris Gonzalez

**Process Technology** 

#### IIII Y

Zola Montana

Security

#### **AUGUST**

Quanisha Eaglin **Community Education** 

#### **SEPTEMBER**

Rosemary Hernandez

Maintenance

#### **OCTORER**

Teresa Landers

**Teacher Education** 

#### NOVEMBER

Janell Laubach

Admissions & Records

#### DECEMBER

**Christopher McClure** Student Affairs

#### 2016

#### **JANUARY**

Scott Bennett

#### Registrar

**FEBRUARY** 

**Abbey Mourer Human Resources** 

MARCH

Mike Spletter **Student Activities** 

#### ΔPRII

Flouise Ford Nursing

#### MAY

**Gabrielle Spriggins** Information Technology

#### JUNE

Marcus King

**Athletics** 

#### JULY

Pam Steyn

Cashier's Office

#### **AUGUST**

Tiffany Winchester

#### **Veterans Center**

#### SEPTEMBER

Jesus Gonzalez

CADD

#### OCTOBER

Gloria Burke

Nursing

#### **NOVEMBER**

Dimarg Fontenelle

Writing Center

#### FACULTY, STAFF & ADMINISTRATOR SPOTLIGHT

#### TRACY ALLEN. DIRECTOR OF NURSING

Allen, a Lee College alumna, earned her doctorate in nursing in summer 2016 and inspired five other Nursing Division faculty to pursue master's and doctoral degrees in the process.

"I've always been very committed to Lee College, and I wanted to make an impact in the lives of students and future nurses in our profession. We start teaching nursing students from the very first day that your job and your role in this career is to be the advocate for the patient. It's been very rewarding to watch our students progress."

#### TREVA BROWN-ASKEY. CHAIRWOMAN OF THE DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION DIVISION

Brown-Askey was one of three nationwide finalists for the 2016 American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Faculty Innovation Award.

"I stay motivated as a Developmental Education instructor when I see the data that shows Developmental Education is working on our campus. Our students are successful when they leave Lee College and transfer to other institutions of learning. I'm happy to do so much for them because I know that to whom much is given, much is required."

#### GRAEME COX. CHAIRMAN OF THE KINESIOLOGY DIVISION

Cox was selected by the Texas Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance as its 2015 College Administrator of the Year.

"While my passion is for teaching, rather than administration, this was recognition for my leadership in preparing our state professional organization for changes coming through the 2014 core. Our efforts in improving assessment criteria at Lee afforded me the opportunity to help other institutions in Texas, and I am proud to share the fruits of our departmental labor."

#### JOE GANAKOS. DIRECTOR OF FORENSICS

As coach of the Mendoza Debate Society, Ganakos has led the team to three consecutive national championships and was named the 2016 International Public Debate Association (IPDA) Bennett Strange Coach of the Year.

"While I am truly honored to be named the 2016 Bennett Strange Coach of the Year, I'd be remiss if I didn't credit all the students we've had compete for Lee since 2013. The tireless work of these intercollegiate debaters demands that I match their effort; they actually make my job easier because their example is something I choose to live up to rather than the other way around. My role as a coach helps reinvigorate me when I'm in the classroom and it's given me the means to watch students grow in ways that can't be measured on a test or in an essay."

#### DR. PORTIA HOPKINS. INSTRUCTOR OF HISTORY AND AMERICAN STUDIES

Hopkins advises the Webb Historical Society, named the 2016 Chapter of the Year by the Texas State Historical Association, and the Model United Nations organization, which won three distinguished awards at the Model United Nations Security Council Simulation Conference in Washington, D.C.

"My goal is to learn something new everyday, always acquiring and obtaining knowledge. The best part of teaching is watching my students grow intellectually. At community colleges, anybody who wants to learn, can learn, and when they choose Lee College they are entering an institution that wants them to excel. Seeing their success has been my greatest joy."

#### EHAB MUSTAFA. DIRECTOR OF THE LEE COLLEGE VETERANS CENTER

A disabled U.S. Army veteran, Mustafa has received numerous accolades for his work on and off campus to support veterans in their transition back into civilian life - including the inaugural Military Veteran Peer Network Award and appointment to U.S. Rep. Brian Babin's Veteran's Advisory Council.

"We are veterans. We all have that strong bond. We all connect. If somebody is willing to put their life on the line for their country, they should never be forgotten. That's the fire that keeps us going. It's not about money or recognition; it's about helping someone."

#### DR. CHRISTINA PONCE, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Dr. Christina Ponce has worked closely with resource development to help raise millions of dollars to support student success at Lee College and was one of just 40 community college leaders across the country awarded the prestigious Aspen Presidential Fellowship for Community College Excellence.

"Being able to help underserved populations inspires me to work harder and bring new resources to communities. Seeing students smile when you hand them a scholarship making it possible for them to go to college, or seeing the difference in students' lives when you take time to mentor or teach, inspires me. I feel blessed to be able to do this important work."



## LEE COLLEGE ALLIANCE

#### THE LEE COLLEGE ALUMNI & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

Lee College Alliance, the Lee College Alumni & Friends Association, is dedicated to the advancement of Lee College as an institution of excellence in higher education. Through its various activities and outreach, the association gives alumni and friends of Lee College the chance to reconnect with old classmates and make new friends; helps friends and alumni become actively engaged in supporting Lee College and its students by providing scholarships and other resources; promotes school spirit; and helps to showcase Runnin' Rebels Basketball and Lady Rebels Volleyball. Lee College Alliance also promotes a college-going culture and supports student success efforts, while providing alumni and friends with opportunities for networking, personal enrichment, professional development and community involvement.

2015-2016 LEE COLLEGE ALLIANCE BOARD MEMBERS

> Scott Sheley President

Kimberlee Techeira Vice President

> Tracey Pattillo Secretary

**Brett Balcerak** 

Weston Cotten

Frank McClosky

LaNelle McKay

Renee Rhodes

Seth Robins

Randy Casey Ex Officio

Clarissa Martinez

Ex Officio

The Lee College Alliance Board works to plan and coordinate events and initiatives that are both enjoyable and beneficial to Lee College, its students, alumni and the community at large. These efforts allow Lee College Alliance to offer support to numerous campus programs and departments, particularly those that give a much-needed boost to students facing a variety of challenges and obstacles as they pursue their degree or certificate. The association has provided assistance to the Center for Workforce and Community Development, Veteran's Center, Project Leeway and Books and Beans.

During the year, Lee College Alliance members support student-athletes by attending alumni nights for the Lee College volleyball and basketball teams - and in 2016, the association hosted its first-ever Red Zone Family Tailgate before the Runnin' Rebels took on Houston Community College Southwest at home, an event that featured a festival-like atmosphere around the Sports Arena and also highlighted many of the support services and resources that Lee College has to offer. At its Ladies Tea and Matinée, Lee College Alliance treated guests to a catered lunch and an afternoon performance of "Steel Magnolias" at the Performing Arts Center to help provide members and their guests with the opportunity to expand their social circles and forge new bonds of friendship. And to inspire greater school pride and enhance Lee College's visibility in the community, Lee College Alliance instituted "Wear Red Wednesdays" to encourage Runnin' Rebels everywhere to show off their colors.





## LEE COLLEGE FOUNDATION

#### ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

The Lee College Foundation has had a consistent mission of providing support for Lee College students since its inception in 1968. This support helps eliminate roadblocks for students enrolled in college, enhances their quality of life, encourages their success and positively changes their future. The 20-member Foundation Board manages a portfolio balance of \$10 million and awarded \$400,000 in scholarship funds during the 2015-16 school year; the award amount will increase to \$430,000 in scholarship funds in the 2016-17 academic year. Tuition scholarships are available for all students - no matter what program of study or whether they are attending full or part-time. Textbook scholarships are also available, as well as summer, dual-credit, non-credit and Huntsville Education Program scholarships. The Foundation accepts both donations and grants for the benefit of the college and its students.

#### MEMBERS OF THE LEE COLLEGE FOUNDATION BOARD

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Jennifer Marcontell *Vice Chair* 

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Pam Warford Executive Director, Secretary





#### CORPORATE DONATIONS HELP TO ADDRESS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Increasingly, business and industry partners have joined individual donors in contributing to endowed and non-endowed scholarships through direct gifts to the Lee College Foundation, and by matching the gifts of active employees and retirees. Often, these partners also help pay for state-of-the-art learning equipment and materials for Lee College classrooms and laboratories, and provide internships, co-ops and even professional mentorships to scholarship recipients – realizing how their donations can help develop the skilled workforce they need for the future.

Workforce development is a high priority for the more than 130 manufacturing companies that are part of the **East Harris County Manufacturers Association (EHCMA)**, which began hosting an annual golf tournament to help raise funds for Lee College technical students as a way to take a more active role in educating those who would become future employees. In 2015, the EHCMA Golf Tournament produced a significant donation to the Lee College Foundation to provide scholarships for students in technical programs - and the association

has pledged to continue the event and raise even more scholarship dollars in the coming years. The association's support also allows students to make personal connections with the region's top employers.

A partner of Lee College for more than 80 years, **ExxonMobil** has also generously invested in the lives and futures of Lee College students pursuing long-lasting, well-paying careers. The latest round of funding supports technician training programs, student success initiatives and the annual EnergyVenture Camp hosted by the Center for Workforce and Community Development each summer to encourage local youth to explore opportunities in the petrochemical and energy industries. It is ExxonMobil's eighth consecutive year of support for the EnergyVenture program.

A gift from **Chevron Phillips Chemical Co**. started the Workforce Development Scholarship Program for Lee College students pursuing a degree in process technology, instrumentation technology or electrical technology. As part of the program, the company also provides a professional mentor for every scholarship recipient, and students have the possibility of securing a Chevron Phillips internship in the latter stages of their educational journey. Chevron Phillips has also been a contributor to the Lee College Foundation Gala and helped support the EnergyVenture camps for youth, while also serving on strategic advisory committees for the college demonstrating a level of charitable giving and community involvement that helped Chevron Phillips earn the 2015 Employer of the Year Award from the Texas Workforce Commission.



An avid supporter of Lee College students, **Enterprise Products Partners LP** is making a difference in the lives of those who receive scholarships through their donations to the Lee College Foundation. Enterprise knew there was a growing demand for a highly-skilled, educated workforce and they desired to recruit students for technical programs, prompting the establishment of a scholarship program that assists students with tuition, fees and books. The company has also supported Lee College through capital campaigns, and is a consistent participant in the annual Foundation Gala.

**Shell Oil** began their support of Lee College students in 2010 through the dual-credit analyzer/instrumentation technology class taught at Hargrave High School. Thanks to Shell, students who enrolled in Lee College from the Hargrave program can receive a yearly stipend for tuition, fees, books and supplies. Since that time, students in the Crosby Independent School District have also been included in the company's program, which helps future generations of skilled workers begin preparing to enter the regional workforce earlier than ever before.

#### THE 30TH ANNUAL LEE COLLEGE FOUNDATION GALA

With some 350 friends of Lee College in attendance and \$150,000 raised for student scholarships and other forms of support, the 30th annual Lee College Foundation Gala - which carried the theme "Champagne and Chocolate" - was truly one for the record books. Guests mingled, enjoyed a silent and live auction and were entertained by student musical ensembles. For Lee College administrators, faculty and staff, the best part of the annual event and primary fundraiser for the Foundation is being able to extend their thanks to the generous and dedicated donors and friends who help provide much-needed assistance to thousands of deserving students.



#### BEING THERE FOR STUDENTS IN EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES

Hurricane Ike ravaged the Texas Gulf Coast in 2008, and faculty and staff returned to the Lee College campus to find that the needs of many devastated families in the community exceeded anything they could have imagined. Even worse, there were no additional funds at the college to assist students facing these types of special circumstances. All available scholarship money was restricted, and had already been awarded to worthy students just a month before Ike struck.



The Student Success Fund was created to answer this need by helping students in extraordinary circumstances pay for college-related expenses. When a student was notified that he would receive a Pell Grant for his tuition - but not before the deadline when his classes would be dropped for non-payment - the Student Success Fund helped bridge the gap. When a student received a \$400 textbook scholarship but still lacked several books she needed for her rigorous coursework in the Nursing Program, the Student Success Fund provided the additional money to buy all the books required for her class.

#### **WAYS TO GIVE**

Lee College has a special place in the hearts of most Baytown-area residents. For many, it was the beginning of a journey in learning that took them to new heights of personal achievement. It was the place where ideas were tested and new dreams were forged.

Gifts to the Lee College Foundation make a lasting difference for future generations, and there are several ways to give and ensure that students finish what they started: their journey to a better and brighter future.

#### CHECK OR CREDIT CARD

Traditional donations are always accepted. Call the office and provide your credit card information, or use the online donation system at: www.lee.edu/foundation/donate.

Checks should be made payable to Lee College Foundation and mailed to:

Lee College Foundation, Attention: Pam Warford, P.O. Box 818, Baytown, Texas 77522-0818.

#### **PLANNED GIFTS**

Provide for the college in a will or trust, turn over a life insurance policy or make the college a beneficiary of a retirement plan. These opportunities not only help the college and its students, but can also help ease the donor's tax liability.

## CORPORATE MATCHING GIFTS

Employees and their spouses who work for a company that matches charitable donations can enclose a form with their gift and the Foundation will request a match.

#### STOCKS AND BONDS

Gifts of appreciated securities can give the donor attractive tax benefits while helping students.

#### LEE COLLEGE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP BREAKFAST



At the 14th annual Foundation Scholarship Breakfast, scholarship recipients and their donors had the opportunity to connect: students personally thanked donors for the tuition or textbook assistance that helped fund their education, while donors saw and heard firsthand how their generosity has made a difference. It was also an occasion to celebrate the establishment of many new scholarships, and a reminder of the continued necessity of the Foundation's work; the excellence in education created at Lee College; and the inspiration given to students every day.

#### SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHT: KYLE DIAMOND

After graduating from Barbers Hill High School, Kyle Diamond enrolled at Lee College eager to join the award-winning Mendoza Debate Society and appreciative of the opportunity to embark on a college education without the heavy debt faced by students at many four-year universities. Receiving a scholarship from the Lee College Foundation only sweetened the pot, opening the door to a life-changing educational experience that has helped him cultivate meaningful relationships with instructors and peers alike. As co-captain of the Debate Team, Diamond has amassed nearly 100 individual and team awards and been ranked as the top collegiate debater in the country - all while achieving academic success, taking on leadership roles in the Student Government Association and earning induction into the Lee College Hall of Fame. "There's a family dynamic that exists here and I feel a sense of community and personal empowerment," Diamond said. "There are a lot of opportunities to reach out to people around me who are in positions of success, and Lee College has been the stepping stone for me to do that."



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#### SCHOLARSHIP SPOTLIGHT: GIFT SAMPSON

When Nigerian immigrant Gift Sampson arrived in the United States and began her Lee College journey, she and her husband often had to make the difficult choice between paying tuition and taking care of the household bills. At her husband's insistence, the tuition always came first - even if it meant the couple would have to sacrifice basic necessities to make it through the month. Receiving a scholarship from the Lee College Foundation gave Sampson the helping hand she needed to make her college dreams a reality. Now a top student in the Process Technology program, she has completed the rigorous Honors Program curriculum and looks forward to making her mark in a maledominated industry in the country she now considers home. "I have never been limited at Lee College because of what I look like or where I come from," Sampson said. "With the whole of my heart, I want to give back to this college because what I have been given has truly transformed me."

## LEE COLLEGE FOUNDATION DONORS

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